for technology development towards achieving higher energy efficiency.

(f) The Steel Development Fund levy was discontinued with effect from 21/22.4.1994. However, the SDF has not been scrapped. The Joint Plant Committee continues to be responsible for the management and operation of the Corpus of the Steel Development Fund and interest received and accrued thereon, under the directions of Steel Development Fund Managing Committee. The total SDF loans outstanding against the main producers as on 31.3.1994 amounts to about Rs. 5009 crores.

Revised collaboration and technology transfer agreement by MSTC & FSNL with M|s. HARSCO

2949. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) and Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited (FSNL) propose to revise the collaboration-cum-technology transfer agreement with M/s. Harsco;

(b) if so, for how long this proposal has been pending, reasons for pendency and by when the agreement is likely to be revised;

(c) what are the salient features and the specific advantages of the proposed revised agreement; and

(d) the loss suffered due to non conclusion of the revised agreement in terms of its inability to fully exploit the potentials of recovery and processing of scrap from slag and refuse dumps of the public sector plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) to (c) Discussions have been in progress with M/s. Harsco from 1992 for revision of the existing collaboration agreement between MSTC and HARSCO and to enter into a separate technology transfer agreement between FSNL and HARSCO. This would facilitate the transfer of latest technology from HARSCO to FSNL. However, it has not been possible to reach an agreement so far.

(d) FSNL's operations under the existing collaboration agreement have remained profitable.

Pollution management norms in SAIL

2950. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prescribed pollution / environment management norms are being complied with at different facilities of SAIL and VSP, for example, in the raw material handling complex, sinter plants, basic oxygen furnaces, continuous casting plants, rolling mills, water treatment plants etc;

(b) if not, the pollution levels at such facilities vis-a-vis the prescribed levels and effect of the same on the environment and the ecology; and

(c) what measures have been taken or proposed to be taken to conform to the prescribed levels of pollution at such facilities and the time frame by which the laid down norms are to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) (a) In the case of SAIL, the effluent and ambient air quality from all the steel plants are within the norms. Regarding stack emissions, most of the shops are within the norms and specific projects are under implementation to bring the balance stacks also within norms. In the case of V.S.P., the stipulations laid down by the Department of

Environment & Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) are being complied with.

(b) The present emissions from shops in SAIL plants which are beyond norms are as follows:

Shop	Norm Particulate matter (mg/Nm³)	Present emissions (mg/Nm³)			
		Bhilai	Durgapur	Rourkela	Bokaro
Sinter Plant	150	200[1]	200[2]	400[3]	180[4]
Open Hearth Furances	400	..	3000[5]	750[6]	..
Twin Hearth Furnaces	400	..	2000[7]	..	..
LD Convertor	400	..	..	800[8]	..
Thermal Power Plant	150/350	600[9]	1800[10]	675[11]	1000[12]
Captive Power Plant	150/350	..	..	.	1000[13]

Though the emissions from above stacks, which constitute less than 25% of the total number of stacks are presently beyond norms, these appear to be within the assimilative capacity of the environment since the ambient air quality of these town-ships are within norms.

In the case of V.S.P. monitoring of air & water quality inside the plant as well as in sensitive areas and the noise level are being done as per stipulations. The results are in general in conformity with norms.

(c) The following actions are being taken by SAIL:

For Superscripts 1,2 & 4 . . . . —Emissions are marginally beyond norms. Shall be controlled by toning up existing control equipment and improving the raw material feed.

For Superscript 3 . . . . —Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) is being installed in place of Multicyclone at Sinter Plant, RSP,. This is likely to be installed by September, 1995.

For Superscript 5 . . . . . —Will be phased out after DSP modernisation (September, 1995).

For Superscript 6 . . . . . —Will be phased out after RSP modernisation (March, 1996).

For Superscript 7 . . . . . —Gas Cleaning Plant under construction.

For Superscript 8 . . . . . —Gas Cleaning Plant under construction.

For Superscripts 9, 10, 11 & 12 . . . —Electrostatic precipitator/gas firing system ordered.

For Superscript 13 . . . . . —Order for electrostatic precipitator being placed.

All the above measures are likely to be completed progressively by March, 1996.

In the case of VSP, all the necessary measures have already been taken.

Mining projects in Visakhapatnam

2951. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY.

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Mining Development Corporation (NMDC) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indian Rare Earth and the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation to form a joint venture company for undertaking and executing a new mining project near Vizag in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects to be executed indicating inter alia the capital outlay, involved equity share of the participating companies, the works to be executed and period of completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL) and the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) to form a joint venture company for taking up exploitation of the Beach Sand Deposit near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh through establishment of a Sand Processing Unit for separation of the constituent minerals and further to set up downstream industries based on the minerals derived. Details of projects to be executed by the proposed joint venture company, estimated cost and period of completion, etc. would be known only on availabilty of the Techno-economic Feasibility Report and equity participation decided thereafter.

Supply of Rails by Bhilai Steel Plant

2952. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant has been unable to supply quality rails to the Railways;

(b) if so, the quantity ordered by the Railways in each of the preceding three years and to what extent the supplies lagged behind, with reasons;

(c) the steps taken to augment the supplies; and

(d) whether the Railways have threatened to import the rails and the effect thereof on the Steel Plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Bhilai Steel Plant is supplying quality rails to the Railways as per the commitment.

(b) The commitment for the supply of rails to Railways and the actual quantity despatched during each of the last 3 years is as under:—

	Commitment (Tonnes)	Actual Supply (Tonnes)	Fulfilment (%)
1991-92	355000	358596	101.0
1992-93	360000	354591	98.5
1993-94 . . .	405000	412874	101.9
TOTAL:	1120000	1126061	100.5